

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 33, with the following new rewritten paragraph.

--Complete, long-term and cross-strain immunity is needed for vaccines. Conserved regions of peptides across strains may be desirable for this purpose. Javed *et al* (1995) reported that small differences in the amino acid sequences of peptides, even single amino acid differences, for T cell-mediated autoimmune disease, *e.g.* multiple sclerosis, may have different protective effects when administered to confer oral tolerance. Although peptides have been reported related to specific diseases or conditions, ~~peptides have been reported~~ no systematic way is available to identify candidates for diagnostic and therapeutic peptides. Algorithms designed to select optimal peptides could enhance specificity of the immunoassays and therapies employing the peptides--